Alberta Treasury
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 2 TO OCTOBER 6, 2000

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month	Month'00/ Month'99	Comments
Building Permits ($ millions)	August			
Alberta	483.5	61.5%	11.3%	Total building permits increased by 61.5% in Alberta in August. Residential and non-residential permits increased by 29.5% and 114.6% respectively. Nationally, during the first eight months, building permits were up 7.1% over the same period in 1999.
Canada	3,283.2	6.3%	2.4%	
Help Wanted Index (1996=100)	September			
Alberta	168	3.1%	20.0%	The help-wanted index is a measure of firms' intentions to hire new workers rather than giving overtime to existing employees. The index for Saskatchewan (-0.7) and Newfoundland (-0.5%) fell in September. Alberta (3.1%), Quebec (2.4%), Ontario (2.2%) and Manitoba (1.8%) had the largest gains. Alberta (20%) had the second highest year over year increase behind Prince Edward Island (23%).
Canada	174	2.4%	7.4%	
Unemployment Rate	September			
United States	3.9%	-0.2%	-0.3%	The U.S. unemployment rate fell –0.2% from August to 3.9% in September, and –0.3% from August 1999, led by strong job growth in the service industry sector. The economy created 252,000 jobs outside the farm sector last month, and 200,000 jobs in the service industry. Despite the increase in job growth, average hourly earnings rose only a modest 0.2% in September, compared to a 0.4% increase in August.